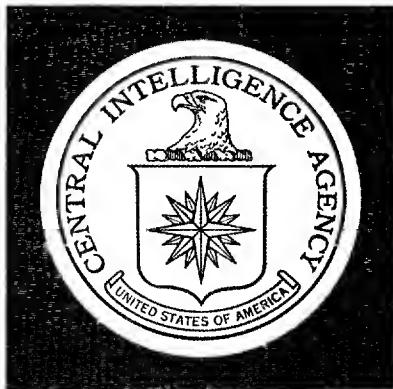


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Central Intelligence Bulletin

DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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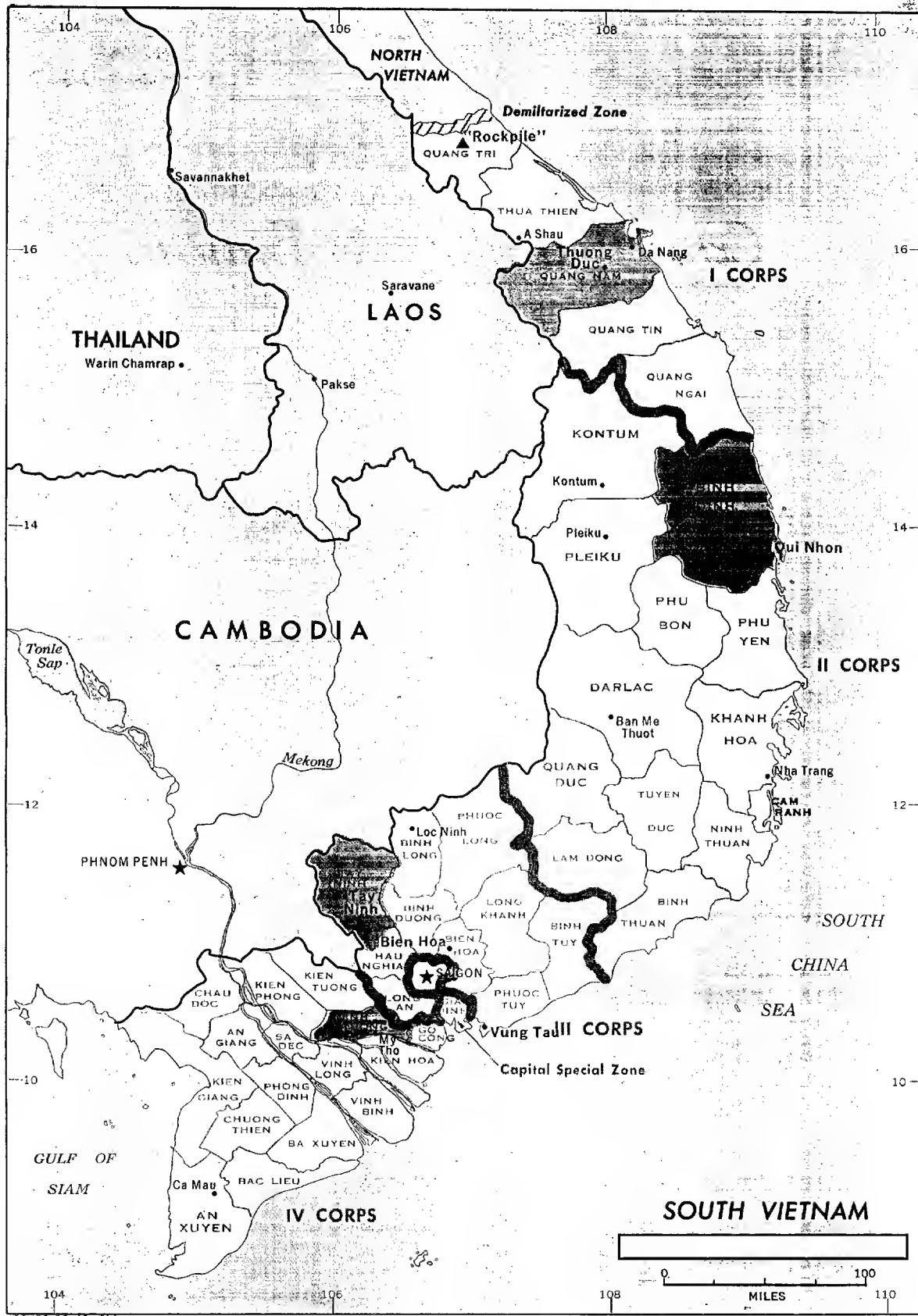
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C South Vietnam: The Communists yesterday issued another tough propaganda defense of the right of the Liberation Front to a significant voice in South Vietnamese affairs.

The broadcast, in the form of a long commentary beamed to South Vietnamese audiences, hit hard at US efforts in the Paris talks to "bolster" the Saigon government. It reiterated Communist insistence that the US must "recognize and talk with the Front" in order to settle the war, claiming that the Front was the "genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people" and "an administration" in areas under Communist control.

The commentary closed with a pledge to continue the war until Communist objectives were achieved. Those objectives were defined as defeating the US, overthrowing the Saigon government, and establishing their own unilateral coalition government.

* * * *

With the exception of allied initiatives, military action in South Vietnam continues light. Fighting broke out in the southeastern corner of the Demilitarized Zone on 23-24 October when an allied operation caught a company-size enemy unit near Gio Linh in a two-hour battle. The unit was probably a subordinate of the North Vietnamese 138th Regiment still lingering south of the Ben Hai River. More than 100 Communists were killed and a large cache of rice was destroyed.

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Berlin: The East German propaganda barrage against forthcoming events in West Berlin is becoming heavier.

A statement issued this week by the East German Foreign Ministry sharply protested the Bundestag committee meetings, which are to begin on Monday, and other scheduled West German activities in the city. The statement demanded that these "illegal" actions be halted and repeated that the Bonn government as well as the Berlin Senat bear "full responsibility for all consequences." Warnings of this type have sometimes been a prelude to interruptions in access to the city and other forms of harassment.

The Soviets are letting East Germany take the lead. They have made known that they consider that the East Germans are obliged to demonstrate displeasure. The Soviets have balanced warnings of unspecified countermeasures, however, with diplomatic assurances that they plan no moves on Berlin and that Allied interests there are not in jeopardy.

The Soviets also have been at pains to appear circumspect in recent contacts with the Allies on autobahn matters, as if to suggest that Moscow is monitoring East German activities closely and is attentive to Western concern about Berlin. A front-page Izvestia commentary yesterday on Berlin was low-key.

Top officials in Bonn and West Berlin show no disposition to cancel or postpone any of the meetings. On 22 October, Mayor Schuetz said, "We will not be impressed by East Berlin's propaganda." A leading official of the city government says he fears that if the Soviets decide on harassment, they are likely to begin during the Bundestag committee meetings in order to sow doubts in the minds of the organizers of the political party gatherings which will come later.

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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Vasily Kuznetsov, the USSR's plenipotentiary in Prague, may be taking up leadership problems with both Dubcek and Dubcek's enemies.

During the night of 23 October, Kuznetsov met with Dubcek for an "open and comradely exchange of views on topical questions of interest to both sides," according to Prague radio. This formulation suggests there was no meeting of minds.

Yesterday, Kuznetsov talked with pro-Soviet party secretary Alois Indra and the conservative Czechoslovak party presidium member Vasil Bilak. Prague radio described these meetings as "friendly" and "sincere." Indra has recently returned from a prolonged stay in Moscow. Bilak has been out of the limelight since he was ousted as boss of the Slovak party in the wake of the invasion.

The Soviets are promoting a resurgence of discredited party conservatives, who are attempting to organize against Dubcek and the reformers in the leadership. Kuznetsov may now be discussing the question of how to bring the conservatives back to their "rightful place" in the party and government and what roles they might play.

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France-Algeria: Paris is showing concern over the Soviet presence in the Mediterranean and particularly in Algeria.

Soviet activities in Algeria are said to have put De Gaulle in a "bad mood," and both ranking officials and the press have expressed alarm. [redacted]

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[redacted] Budgetary considerations and pressure from French business and other interests will severely limit Paris' effort to compete with Moscow in Algeria.

France has not yet responded to Algeria's request for assistance in reorganizing its Soviet-equipped and trained navy and in refurbishing the Mers el Kebir naval base. Paris has so far agreed only to send a naval expert to advise the Algerian Navy, and has insisted that he have complete freedom of movement so as to permit him access to Mers el Kebir. [redacted]

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Morocco-USSR: The Soviet naval force that visited Casablanca last week received a restrained reception from Moroccan authorities.

Moroccan officials arranged the usual routine of calls and entertainment, and senior Soviet officials were received by the minister of defense, the deputy chief of the general staff, and top civilian officials in Casablanca. The two ranking civilians and many Moroccan military officers did not attend the Soviet admiral's reception, however, and local authorities in Casablanca are reported to have discouraged the Moroccan public from visiting the Soviet ships.

Publicity for the visit was comparable to that accorded smaller routine US naval visits to Moroccan ports. The visit did, however, set a precedent for future Soviet naval calls.

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Peru: The military government has initiated contacts with the Soviet Union, apparently in the hope of obtaining economic aid.

Peru's foreign minister has announced that preliminary talks have begun with the Soviet Embassy in Chile. He said that the Soviets have told the Peruvians that the USSR makes loans for 8-10 years, carrying interest rates of 3-3.5 percent and repayable in products. The Peruvians could be attracted by these terms, which would allow them to avoid repayment in hard currency.

The government had earlier announced that it would receive economic missions from the USSR and other East European countries in the next few months. It has also approved a Soviet request to conduct "maritime biological exploration" off the Peruvian coast. In response to a Soviet invitation, two Peruvians have been named to participate in the operation.

Peru is looking for new markets and other sources of foreign aid, but it may also be trying to exert pressure on the US to maintain normal diplomatic ties and economic support.

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Chile: The Christian Democratic Party is attempting a move to the left without repudiating President Frei's policies.

The party platform adopted last weekend praises many accomplishments of the Frei administration. The party clearly believes, however, that some aspects are a burden to it, and the platform emphasizes the need for additional reform in the "second stage" of Christian Democratic government. The platform pledges the Christian Democratic Party to eliminate capitalism and build a "democratic and communitarian society." It goes on to call for Chile's "total liberation from imperialism through recovery of the country's basic resources"--a thrust at US copper companies in Chile.

The leftist segment of the party showed its strength by inserting in the platform a call for leftist unity. The party leaders indicated, however, that they would insist on setting the terms for cooperation with the Communists and would not permit other groups in the party to negotiate any electoral alliance. The Communists have already replied that the Christian Democrats must rid themselves of "reactionary elements" such as the present minister of the interior before any cooperation is possible.

Despite the Christian Democrats' emphasis on plans for additional reform, they know that their prospects in congressional elections next spring are tied to the successes and failures of the first four years of Frei's government, and they will not repudiate it entirely.

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Yugoslavia: Press comment in the Soviet bloc continues to link Yugoslavia to the West.

An editorial on 22 October in Bulgaria's major party daily, Rabotnichesko Delo, noted the similarity between Yugoslav and Western reaction to the Soviet-Czechoslovak troop treaty. The editorial professed to understand the "antisocialist rage" coming out of the West but expressed perplexity at the negative line in the Yugoslav press which, it noted, greeted the treaty "with a sour face." Soviet press articles on Undersecretary Katzenbach's recent visit to Yugoslavia have emphasized the closeness of US-Yugoslav relations.

This treatment will irk Tito who addressed himself to the subject as recently as 20 October in a major speech at Leskovac, near the Bulgarian border. In that speech, Tito indignantly rejected charges by certain Eastern European countries that Yugoslavia is selling itself to the West and is tending toward capitalism.

The Yugoslavs are understandably nervous over bloc comparisons of their social system to capitalism in view of Moscow's expressed intention of keeping order in the "socialist commonwealth." The Yugoslavs fear that with this doctrine the Soviets are presuming the right to intervene in socialist countries outside the Warsaw Pact. Continued criticism of Yugoslavia's policies from the Soviet bloc will keep tensions high and will tend to maintain Yugoslav fears of economic sanctions from the Warsaw Five.

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Uganda: President Milton Obote is moving harshly against critics of his government.

In a speech to parliament on 21 October Obote bitterly attacked a number of people, especially intellectuals. He singled out Ali Mazrui, a well-known professor of political science at Makerere University in Kampala. The speech followed the arrest of a member of parliament who last month published an article and more recently a letter which were severely critical of Uganda's republican constitution and Obote's government. Two journalists who had contacts with the MP were also arrested and beaten. Mazrui published a statement deplored the detentions; he now expects to be deported.

Obote is notoriously thin-skinned and quick to take personal affront at any criticisms. He has seldom, however, resorted to such steps as detaining the critics themselves.

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SOVIET WEATHER SATELLITE PROGRAM

	DATE LAUNCHED	LAUNCH AREA	USEFUL LIFETIME
Research and development weather satellites			
COSMOS 44	28 Aug 64	TYURATAM	16 Days
COSMOS 58	26 Feb 65	TYURATAM	7 Weeks
COSMOS 100	17 Dec 65	TYURATAM	1 Day
COSMOS 118	11 May 66	TYURATAM	3 Weeks
COSMOS 122	25 Jun 66	TYURATAM	18 Weeks
Meteor weather satellite system			
COSMOS 144	28 Feb 67	PLESETSK	13 Months
COSMOS 156	27 Apr 67	PLESETSK	4 Months
COSMOS 184	24 Oct 67	PLESETSK	7 Months
COSMOS 206	14 Mar 68	PLESETSK	2 Months
COSMOS 226	22 Jun 68	PLESETSK	Active

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USSR: The Soviets probably are developing an improved weather satellite.

The satellite, which may be orbited within the next year, would represent a significant improvement over the one the Soviets have used since establishing their Meteor weather satellite system in February 1967. The short life of the present satellites has made the Meteor system extremely expensive. Only one of the five Meteor satellites put into orbit is still operating.

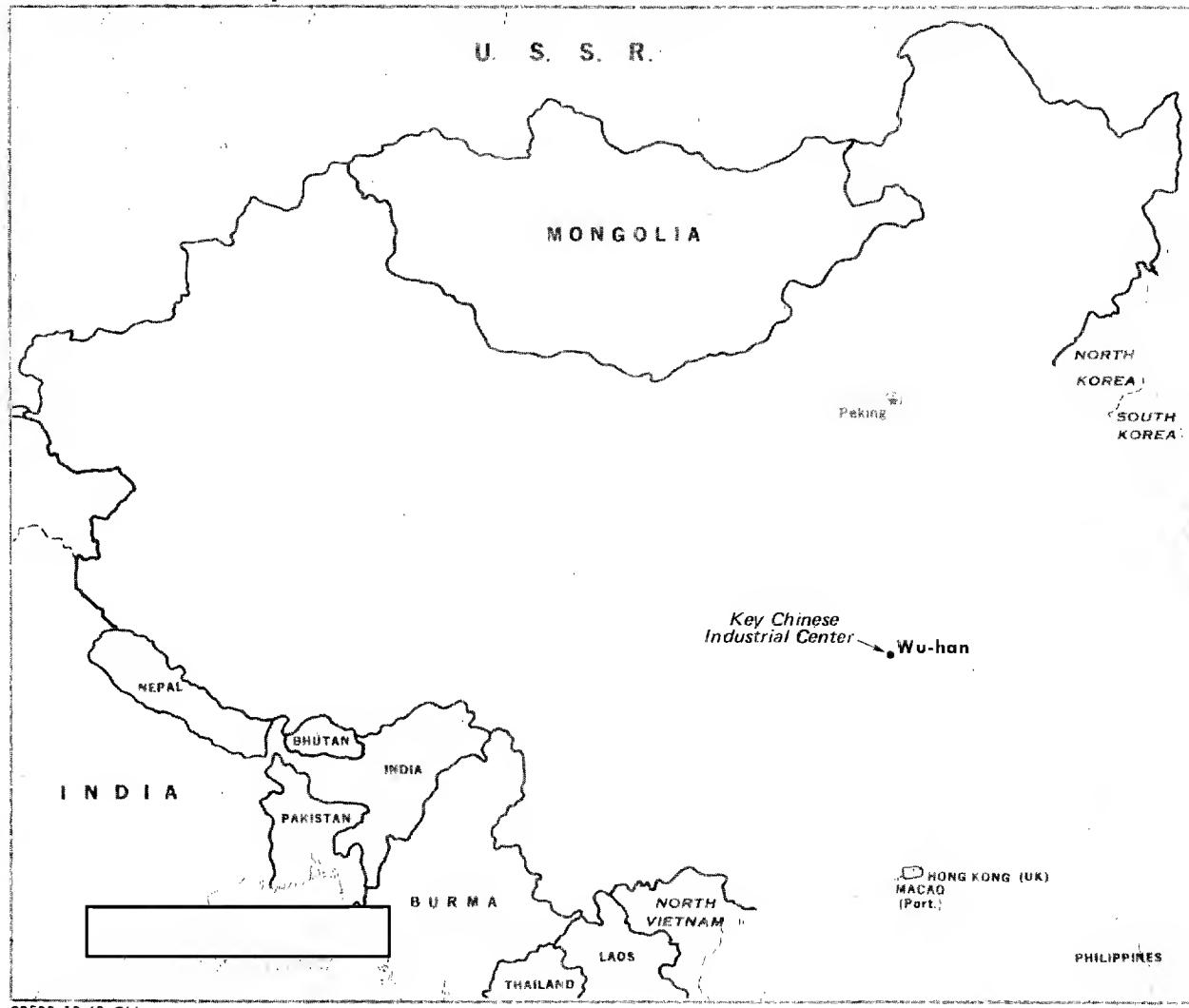
The instrumentation on the satellite under development probably will be comparable to that used on present US weather satellites. The new satellite may be able to transmit images in three different colors for later reconstruction of simulated color cloud photography, a feature that has been tested on experimental satellites orbited by the US. The new satellite probably would be placed in an orbit about 300 miles high; at least three would be required to provide 24-hour, world-wide weather coverage.

Even if an improved satellite is orbited, data handling problems probably will continue to plague the Soviet weather satellite program. The bilateral agreement concluded between the US and the USSR in 1962 requires passage of weather data within six hours of its collection. Soviet satellite information is usually 12 to 24 hours old when received in Washington, too old to be very useful in weather forecasting.

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Recent Disorders Reported in Chinese Industrial Center



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Communist China: Unsettled conditions in the key industrial city of Wu-han may be representative of the situation in other long-troubled cities which have been centers of Cultural Revolution factionalism and violence.

[redacted] while order has been "more or less restored" since the period of bitter factional fighting last summer, two large opposing factional groups remain. Disagreements between them have prevented the formation of administrative revolutionary committees at lower levels in many organizations. Moreover, "worker propaganda teams" which were formed in August to occupy schools and subdue Red Guard organizations in other major Chinese cities have made little progress in Wu-han. [redacted]

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[redacted] the teams have entered only one Wu-han college.

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[redacted] "production on the whole is not good." [redacted] Wu-han youth in general are "disillusioned and apathetic" and few young people participated in the National Day celebrations in the city on 1 October. [redacted]

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[redacted] the situation in the Wu-han Public Security Bureau--presumably the foreign affairs section--had improved since January 1968 and that the bureau office "is now open a few times a week."

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As recently as early August there were reports of violent struggle in Wu-han which resulted in the burning down of some houses, but there have been no reports of major disorders since. During September, however, provincial editorials complained that some lower level units had set up "rival revolutionary committees" without the authorization of the provincial authorities. Such complaints support the repatriates' description of continuing factional struggle. [redacted]

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USSR-Czechoslovakia: The Soviet Army newspaper Red Star reported yesterday that the citizens of Kaliningrad, in the Baltic Military District, had given a heroes' welcome to Soviet troops returning from Czechoslovakia. This is the first official statement indicating that Soviet troops have been withdrawn from Czechoslovakia. These troops probably belonged to the units which allied military missions in East Germany reported were withdrawing from positions near the Czechoslovak - East German border on 17 October.

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Rhodesia-UK: Prime Minister Ian Smith has requested that George Thomson, British minister in charge of negotiations with Rhodesia, come to Salisbury for further talks. Smith reportedly indicated that if a compromise can be worked out on the British demand for an "external" safeguard of African constitutional rights, i.e., the right of appeal to the British Privy Council, then an agreement could be reached. Prime Minister Wilson said before Parliament on 22 October that he would be willing to consider an alternative to the system of appeal that he set forth during the recent talks aboard HMS Fearless.

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Brazil: Harsh police action against student demonstrators in Rio de Janeiro is symptomatic of the government's determination to use all force necessary to end manifestations of student unrest. Two days of clashes have left at least three persons dead and an undetermined number injured. On 21 October, high military chiefs reportedly warned President Costa e Silva in strong terms that the lack of effective action by the administration in this area was creating growing dissatisfaction among the lower ranks of the services.

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